General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 April 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 12

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.68/Rev.1)*]

56/258. Meeting of the General Assembly devoted to information and communication technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, entitled "United Nations Millennium Declaration", in particular paragraph 20 of the Declaration, the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council,[1] agreed conclusions 2001/1 of the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Council,[2] and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also its resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, in which it welcomed the fact that the World Summit on the Information Society would be held in December 2003 in Geneva and in December 2005 in Tunis,

Recognizing that information and communication technologies are among the critical determinants for creating a global knowledge-based economy, accelerating growth, raising competitiveness, promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and facilitating the effective integration of all countries into the global economy,

Recognizing also that the information and communication technologies revolution poses opportunities and challenges, and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments to the participation of the developing countries in that revolution, such as lack of infrastructure, education, capacity-building, investment and connectivity,

Mindful that market forces and the role of the private sector are fundamental, but that they alone will not suffice to bridge the digital divide and to promote digital opportunities, and convinced that partnerships involving Governments, multilateral development institutions, bilateral donors, the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders will play a key role in bridging the divide,

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/55/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 17.

[2] A/56/3, chap. V, para. 7. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

Convinced that the United Nations system should play a leadership role in promoting synergies and coherence of all efforts directed at expanding the development impact of information and communication technologies,

Welcoming the fact that the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force was launched on 20 November 2001, and fully convinced that the Task Force will play an important role in harnessing the power of information and communication technologies for advancing the internationally agreed development goals,

Welcoming also the fact that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2001/24 of 26 July 2001, extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics until 31 December 2002,

1. *Decides* to convene a Meeting of the General Assembly consisting of three plenary meetings devoted to bridging the digital divide and promoting digital opportunities in the emerging information society during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly; the Meeting will address the digital divide in the context of globalization and the development process and promote coherence and synergies between various regional and international information and communication technologies initiatives, including, inter alia, the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the Digital Opportunities Task Force; the participation of all relevant organizations will be encouraged;

2. *Also decides* that, parallel to the plenary meetings, separate informal panels will be organized that will include the participation of non-governmental organizations, academia and the business sector;

3. *Stresses* that the Meeting shall be prepared and organized in a manner that will assist Governments and all the relevant partners in their preparations for the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in December 2003 and December 2005, and their preparatory processes;

4. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to make proposals in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Assembly, on the themes of the informal panels;

5. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly to make proposals, in consultation with all Member States, for consideration by the Assembly, on the representatives of non-governmental organizations, academia and the business sector who will be invited to participate in the informal panels, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, relevant expertise and the need to obtain the perspective of developing countries;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary administrative and organizational support for the preparation of the Meeting;

7. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session an item entitled "Information and communication technologies for development".

93rd plenary meeting
31 January 2002

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 April 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 26

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.71)*]

56/259. Schedule for the plenary meetings and round tables of the special session of the General Assembly on children

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/26 of 20 November 2000, in which it decided to convene the special session of the General Assembly for follow-up to the World Summit for Children from 19 to 21 September 2001, and to refer to it as the "special session on children",

Recalling also its decision 56/401 of 12 September 2001, by which it decided to postpone the special session on children until a date to be decided by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,

Recalling further its resolution 56/222 of 24 December 2001, in which it decided to convene the special session on children from 8 to 10 May 2002,

Recalling its resolution 55/276 of 22 June 2001, in which it decided:

(*a*) That the special session on children would include three interactive round-table sessions,

(*b*) To adopt the organizational arrangements set out in the annex to resolution 55/276,

(*c*) That these arrangements would in no way create a precedent for other special sessions,

Noting that paragraph 12 of the draft decision on the organizational arrangements for the special session on children, recommended by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children for adoption by the Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session[1] indicated that six plenary meetings were to be held from Wednesday, 19 September, to Friday, 21 September 2001, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily,

Noting also that, in paragraph 1 of the annex to resolution 55/276, it decided that the round tables would be held on Wednesday, 19 September, from 3 p.m. to

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-27/2), chap. VI, sect. B, para. 25, draft decision II.

6.30 p.m., and on Thursday and Friday, 20 and 21 September 2001, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

Decides that the plenary meetings and the round tables of the special session of the General Assembly on children shall be held according to the schedules set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

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Annex

1. The six plenary meetings of the special session of the General Assembly on children shall be held as follows:

Wednesday, 8 May 2002, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday, 9 May 2002, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, 10 May 2002, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

2. The round tables for the special session on children shall be held as follows:

Round table 1: Wednesday, 8 May 2002, from 3 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Round table 2: Thursday, 9 May 2002, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Round table 3: Friday, 10 May 2002, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 April 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 110

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.69)]

56/260. Terms of reference for the negotiation of an international legal instrument against corruption

The General Assembly,

Concerned at the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

Recalling its resolution 51/59 of 12 December 1996, by which it adopted the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials and recommended the Code to Member States as a tool to guide their efforts against corruption,

Recalling also its resolution 51/191 of 16 December 1996, by which it adopted the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,

Recalling further its resolution 55/61 of 4 December 2000, in which it established an ad hoc committee for the negotiation of an effective international legal instrument against corruption, and requested the Secretary-General to convene an intergovernmental open-ended expert group to examine and prepare draft terms of reference for the negotiation of such an instrument,

Recalling its resolution 55/188 of 20 December 2000, in which it invited the Intergovernmental Open-Ended Expert Group to Prepare Draft Terms of Reference for the Negotiation of an International Legal Instrument against Corruption, convened pursuant to resolution 55/61, to examine the question of illegally transferred funds and the return of such funds to the country of origin,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/13 of 24 July 2001, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating the transfer of funds of illicit origin, derived from acts of corruption, including the laundering of funds, and in returning such funds",

Reiterating the need to prepare a broad and effective international legal instrument against corruption,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on existing international legal instruments, recommendations and other documents addressing corruption,[1] submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its tenth session and before the meeting of the Intergovernmental Open-Ended Expert Group,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Intergovernmental Open-Ended Expert Group to Prepare Draft Terms of Reference for the Negotiation of an International Legal Instrument against Corruption which met in Vienna from 30 July to 3 August 2001,[2] as endorsed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its resumed tenth session and by the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/61, shall negotiate a broad and effective convention which, subject to the final determination of its title, shall be referred to as the "United Nations Convention against Corruption";

3. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee, in developing the draft convention, to adopt a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach and to consider, inter alia, the following indicative elements: definitions; scope; protection of sovereignty; preventive measures; criminalization; sanctions and remedies; confiscation and seizure; jurisdiction; liability of legal persons; protection of witnesses and victims; promoting and strengthening international cooperation; preventing and combating the transfer of funds of illicit origin derived from acts of corruption, including the laundering of funds, and returning such funds; technical assistance; collection, exchange and analysis of information; and mechanisms for monitoring implementation;

4. *Invites* the Ad Hoc Committee to draw on the report of the Intergovernmental Open-Ended Expert Group, on the report of the Secretary-General,[1] as well as on the relevant parts of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its tenth session,[3] and in particular on paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/13, as resource materials in the accomplishment of its tasks;

5. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to take into consideration existing international legal instruments against corruption and, whenever relevant, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[4]

6. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Committee shall be convened in Vienna in 2002 and 2003, as required, and shall hold no fewer than three sessions of two weeks each per year, within the overall approved appropriations of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003, according to a schedule to be drawn up by its bureau, and requests the Committee to complete its work by the end of 2003;

7. *Also decides* that the bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself and shall consist of two representatives from each of the five regional groups;

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[1] E/CN.15/2001/3 and Corr.1.

[2] A/AC.260/2 and Corr.1.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 10* (E/2001/30/Rev.1).

[4] Resolution 55/25, annex I.

8. *Invites* donor countries to assist the United Nations in ensuring the full and effective participation of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, including by covering travel and local expenses;

9. *Urges* States to be fully involved in the negotiation of the convention and to endeavour to ensure continuity in their representation;

10. *Invites* the Ad Hoc Committee to take into consideration the contributions of non-governmental organizations and civil society, in accordance with United Nations rules and following the practice established by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

11. *Accepts with gratitude* the offer of the Government of Argentina to host an informal preparatory meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee prior to its first session;

12. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to submit progress reports on its work to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eleventh and twelfth sessions, in 2002 and 2003, respectively;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the necessary facilities and resources to support its work.

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